



Welcome to the  
Probate and Family Court  
Department of the  
Massachusetts Trial Court.

Many Probate and  
Family Law matters  
involve complex and  
valuable legal rights.  
You should always  
speak with an attorney  
before filing any papers.

# LOOKING FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

This booklet  
contains a list of  
Lawyer Referral Services,  
Free Legal Resources and  
Legal Aid Agencies in

BERKSHIRE COUNTY

## LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

## LEGAL RESOURCES

The  
Massachusetts  
Trial Court  
provides free  
legal resources

## MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced  
fee panel.

Call (617) 654-0400 or (800) 392-6164

e-mail: [lrs@massbar.org](mailto:lrs@massbar.org)

To register online, visit

[www.massbar.org/lawhelp/](http://www.massbar.org/lawhelp/)

## BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.  
Serves mainly Greater Boston, inside Route 495, but will  
provide referrals throughout Massachusetts.

Call (617) 742-0625 or e-mail: [lrs@bostonbar.org](mailto:lrs@bostonbar.org)

For more information, visit

[www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index](http://www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index)

## MASSACHUSETTS JUDICIAL BRANCH WEB SITE

The official web site of the Judicial Branch includes  
judicial profiles, addresses, phone numbers and  
directions for courthouses as well as other useful  
information about the Trial Court. Click on  
[www.state.ma.us/courts](http://www.state.ma.us/courts)

## BERKSHIRE LAW LIBRARY

Courthouse, 76 East Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries are open to  
the public, providing legal reference services and legal  
research assistance. The library is open from 8:30 am. to  
4:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday Ask at the  
Registry of Probate for the Law Libraries pamphlet which  
provides more details.

Call (413) 442-5059 or visit the Law Libraries web site

[www.lawlib.state.ma.us](http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us)

Free  
resources  
offered by the  
Massachusetts  
Bar Association

TEL-LAW

Tel-Law is a collection of recorded messages designed to answer basic questions about the law. Tel-Law is fully automated and you can access it 24 hours/day by calling (617) 338-0669. (Toll charges may apply)

WEB SITE

The MBA's web site offers answers to basic legal questions. Point your browser to [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org)

DIAL-A-LAWYER

The first Wednesday of every month you can get free legal help, by telephone, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lawyer volunteers staff phones to answer your questions.

Call (617) 338-0610

LEGAL  
SERVICE  
AGENCIES

These resources  
are available  
only to very  
low income and  
elderly  
individuals

MASSACHUSETTS JUSTICE PROJECT

57 Suffolk Street, Suite 401

Holyoke, MA 01040

(413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209

Provides initial intake, advice or brief service in domestic relations cases. Refers eligible clients to legal service programs and pro bono attorneys.

VOLUNTEER LAWYER SERVICE

MASSACHUSETTS JUSTICE PROJECT

57 Suffolk Street, Suite 401

Holyoke, MA 01040

(413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209

Private attorneys represent qualifying indigent individuals on domestic relations issues at no cost. Attorneys will provide advice or full representation.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL SERVICES

Pittsfield Office

152 North Street, E-155

Pittsfield, MA 01201

North Adams Office

85 Main Street

North Adams, MA  
01247

For intake, Call (413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209

Advice and direct representation in divorce, assistance to preserve existing child custody arrangements, protection from domestic violence and problems with DSS where there is no appointed counsel. Clinic for no fault divorces.

LEGAL ADVOCACY & RESOURCE CENTER

Provides telephone information, pro se assistance and referrals to legal service agencies.

Intake hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.,

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Call (800) 342-5297

LEGAL  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM

LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A volunteer lawyer is available every Thursday morning in the Berkshire Probate and Family Court. The lawyer provides legal education regarding procedures in the Probate and Family Court only, as it pertains to pending matters. The lawyer does not file an appearance or accompany the person into the courtroom. Individuals must meet indigency (financial) requirements. For more information, call (413) 442-6941 or visit the Registry of Probate.